

## Plexus Honored with Rising Star Award



Each year, the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce ([NGLCC](#)) hosts a business and leadership conference, which is highlighted by an awards ceremony to recognize the local affiliate chambers for excellence in programming, economic impact, and community service.

Plexus was honored with the Rising Star award, which is given to a relatively young chamber that has experienced strong growth. The Rising Star Chamber exhibits vitality and relevance in its community, brings a unified voice to the LGBT business community it serves, and proves its commitment to being part of the broader national movement. This chamber serves as an inspiration to its fellow chambers.

Sam McClure, Director of Affiliate relations for the NGLCC and a member of the selection committee said, "Plexus has quickly developed strong community partnerships, solid leadership, and a very powerful LGBT supplier diversity summit that is an incredible resource for Cleveland's LGBT-owned businesses interested in getting traction for solid strategic business growth."



*Justin Nelson, NGLCC Co-founder & President, Sam McClure, NGLCC Director of Affiliate Relations; Todd Lloyd, Plexus Board Member; Michelle Tomallo, Plexus Board Member; Chris Crespo of Ernst & Young, NGLCC Board Chair; Chance Mitchell, NGLCC Co-founder & CEO*

The national selection committee was impressed by Plexus' programs on workplace equality, LGBT leadership initiatives, and supplier diversity. Eric Lutzo, Plexus Co-founder and President, said, "This award recognizes the hard work of our board, allied businesses, corporate partners, and our dedicated supporters. It also acknowledges that Plexus adds to the regional economic capacity while drawing attention to the importance of safe and inclusive workplaces."

In addition to Plexus, [NGLCC honored other chambers](#). The Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunities was awarded the 2011 Chamber of the Year, while the Tucson GLBT Chamber of Commerce, North Texas GLBT Chamber, and Independence Business Alliance in Philadelphia received Excellence Awards.

Plexus was one of 50 affiliate chambers attending the leadership conference. NGLCC affiliate chambers are having a powerful impact all around the country because they are leveraging every possible opportunity for business to grow and become strong engines that drive their local economies.



*The NGLCC is the only national not-for-profit advocacy organization dedicated to expanding the economic opportunities and advancements of the LGBT business community. With over 29,000 members, 130 corporate partners and 62 local, state and international affiliate chambers, NGLCC is the largest LGBT business development and economic advocacy organization in the world.*